

The FSA FMS Post

Welcome to Edition 2.0 of The FSA FMS Post. "Get the Latest FMS News that Affects You."

FMS Spotlight

This section highlights recent FSA FMS successes and milestones.

"From Soup to Nuts" – IF010 Files Processing Successfully in FMS on a Daily Basis!

From its beginning to end, the IF010 process highlights both the challenges and successes of FSA's Financial Management System.

IF010 transactions, which contain the financial data from Direct Loan Servicing System (DLSS), are now processed automatically in FMS on a daily basis. FMS is accurately processing IF010 data in record amounts of time. To reach these milestones, FMS had to overcome two challenges: system performance and data accuracy.

Due to its sheer volume, which ranges from 500,000 to 1.5 million records daily, the IF010 created major challenges with system performance and data accuracy. Performance has now reached optimal levels due to a valiant and successful work effort fine-tuning the code and FSA FMS to maximize performance. Sanjay Mancham, the lead systems programmer on the FMS Operations team for the IF010 process, noted that the FMS team was able to reduce the processing time by more than half its original amount, from 12 hours of processing down to five hours.

In addition, the vast and complex account mapping of the IF010 presented several hurdles in achieving success with data accuracy. Teams from Ed's OFCO, FSA's CFO, FSA's Accounting Division, ACS, Cotton & Company, and Mod Partner came together to successfully overcome this hurdle and deliver an accurate accounting treatment for Direct Loan Servicing. The ability of many different parts coming together under the banner of one team and overcoming these challenges underscores the success of FMS.

Goodbye...

Paul Stonner, Director of FSA FMS, will be leaving FSA for the private sector this Friday, August 16th. Paul's tour of duty with FMS, which covered over two years, was marked with a consistent display of leadership and successful milestones. On behalf of the FMS family, we wish you the best!!!

Congratulations!!!

Shirley Singleton, current Team Lead of FMS Operations, will become the new FSA FMS Acting Director. Shirley carries on the tradition of experience, knowledge, and leadership at FMS.

FSA FMS Team Update

FSA FMS consists of many teams across FSA, ED, and Mod Partner. This section highlights a different team each edition.

"Keeping the Trains Running" FSA FMS Operations

The FMS Operations team has managed a full load while keeping all the FMS processes running efficiently and effectively. The primary objective of this team is to provide the capability to sustain the FMS application and associated infrastructure so that FSA fully realizes all business value. In support of this objective, the FMS Operations team performs the following activities:

- **FSA Help Desk Support** – As the single point-of-entry for States, Guaranty Agencies, Lenders, and other FSA external FMS users, the Help Desk responds to all internal and external user requests, assists with technical application and processing issues, drives all user communications, and manages the Change Request Process.

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- **Monthly Closing Process** – FMS Operations is responsible for ensuring that FSA's Set of Books (SOB) close successfully each month and balance with Ed's SOB. This involves receiving all data from all FMS sources, verifying that all FMS data has been processed and posted, system balancing, and consolidating data from the SFA SOB into the ED SOB.
- **Performance Support** – FMS Operations is committed to ensuring that all FMS users have the resources they need in order to do their job effectively and efficiently. Help Desk Support, superusers and coaches, classroom and informal training, and custom user procedures are some common examples of how the team puts this commitment into action.

From processing files to closing the books with ED's CFO, FMS Operations is helping FSA provide accurate, complete, and timely financial information. And all teams across FSA and ED are coming together more and more to turn FMS challenges into success stories. Brian McCann, the FMS Application Architect, summarized the morale well: *"FMS as a whole is gelling as team, as we all realize we are really just different parts of the same team..."*

FSA FMS Upcoming Events

Upcoming Milestones and Things to Know

- **Mock Year-end Close: TBD**
- **Lender's Application Process / Lender's Reporting System (LAP/LaRS):**
Training
 - ❑ **Train-the-Trainer - Washington DC, 8/7**
 - ❑ **Financial Partners Regional Training - Dallas, 8/13**
 - ❑ **Financial Partners Regional Training - Chicago, 8/15**
 - ❑ **Financial Partners Regional Training - New York, 8/27**
 - ❑ **Financial Partners Regional Training - San Francisco, 9/4**

User Acceptance Test (UAT)

- ❑ **FSA UAT, 8/12 - 8/16**
- ❑ **Lender/Service UAT, 8/19 - 8/23**
- ❑ **Send UAT results to the Lender/Service Community, 8/27**
- **Brown Bag Lunch – Reports, Reconciliations, and the Future: 9/11**
- **OIG Audit fieldwork: thru September**

Trivia Question

August Trivia Question

Congratulations to Milton Thomas, who was the first person to answer last edition's trivia question!

Previous Question:

What FMS tool is generated by Oracle Workflow?

Answer: Journal Approval

Current Question: What is the current average processing time of an IF010 file in FMS?

Hint: You can find the answer in the newsletter!!

The first person to respond to ryan.townsend@ed.gov with the correct answer will be recognized in the next newsletter.

We welcome all suggestions and questions!